TL S14

EAST TIMOR TALKS CAMPAIGN

124 Napier Street, Fitzroy, 3065, Australia Tel: (03) 417 7505 Fax: (03) 416 2746

MEDIA RELEASE

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IRISH PRESIDENT ASKED TO INTERVENE ON EAST TIMOR

Melbourne's East Timorese community today released the text of a letter to be presented to the Irish President, Mary Robinson, at a reception in Melbourne this evening.

The letter makes three requests of the Irish Government:

1. to urge Indonesia to immediately release East Timorese political prisoners wrongly imprisoned following last year's Dili massacre;

2. to press Indonesia and the UN to include the East Timorese resistance in talks to resolve the conflict in East Timor; and

3. to advocate the suspension of all military sales and aid to Indonesia by the members of the European Community, including the EC chair Britain, until East Timorese prisoners are freed and the conflict in East Timor 'has been fully resolved in accordance with UN principles and procedures'.

The letter will be presented to Mrs Robinson at a reception at the Grand Hyatt 6.00-7.30 pm this evening (Friday) by Ms Emilia Pires, President of the Timorese Association of Victoria, who has been invited to represent the Timorese community at the function.

The letter pays tribute to Mrs Robinson's known concern over East Timor and the recent undertaking by the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr David Andrews, to uphold the right of the East Timorese people to self-determination and take action in the EC and UN.

Contact: Emilia Pires Tel. (03) 309 5172 ah
Pat Walsh Tel. (03) 417 7505 w; 481 1581 h

The East Timor Talks Campaign is endorsed by: Australian Council for Overseas Aid; Bob Brown; Sr Veronica Brady; Hon John Dowd, QC; Martin Ferguson; Tom Uren; Bill Armstrong; Dr Keith Suter; Janet Powell; Rev Dr Sandy Yule; Phillip Adams; Jo Vallentine; James Dunn; Justice Marcus Einfeld; Prof Peter Singer; Heather Southcott, AM; Fr Bob Maguire, AM; Dr Joe Camilleri; Sr Angela Ryan; Judith Wright; David Scott; Bishop Paul Moore Jr; John Wheeldon; Dr Jocelynne Scutt; Frank Brennan, SJ; Hon Michael Kirby; Bob Debus; Russell Rollason; David Suzuki; Justice Elizabeth Evan, AO; Noam Chomsky; Thomas Keneally; Stella Cornelius, AO OBE; Timothy Ma; Rodney Holt; Elsa Atkin; Rev Richard Wootton; Prof Garth Nettheim; Dr Ross Fitzgerald; Kaz Cooke; Rev Dorothy McMahon; Bill Ethell; David Shinnick; Senator John Coulter; Dr David Armstrong; Dr Hilary Charlesworth; Dr Judy Henderson; Prof Charles Birch; Faith Bandler; Tom Kelly; Mollie Missen; Bishop Brian Kyme; Sr Janet Mead; Dr Richard Tanter; Michael Sullivan OAM.